

MARVEL  
COMICS

MORBIUS VERSUS

# BLODDE

THE VAMPIRE-HUNTER?



DIRECT EDITION



00811

59606 02371

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**Y**OU COULD CUT THE ATMOSPHERE WITH A KNIFE.



— PREPARED TO GO, SIR.  
YESTERDAY'S PUBLICATIONS.

JOHN NOW LIES AT DEATH'S DOOR AFTER AN ENCOUNTER WITH DEACON FROST, THE ADVERSARY WHO SET ALADDIN'S LIFE ON ITS HAZARDOUS PATH.

**Despite the horrendous security  
blades remain deafening...**



AT THE MOMENT A VAMPIRE KILLED HIS MOTHER, BLADE  
WAS BORN! NOW, ARMED WITH UNIQUE POWERS AND  
EVERY EDGED WEAPON IMAGINABLE, HE STALKS THE NIGHT  
TO ERADICATE THE UNDEAD AND PROTECT HUMANITY!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:  
**Blade** THE VAMPIRE HUNTER

# BITES & MESSAGES

FROM  
**MORRIS!**  
YOU SO MUCH AS  
BLOWN OUTTA LINE  
AN' FOOLIN' IN FOR SOME  
TERMINAL CAVITAL  
SURGERY.

IAN EDGINTON WRITER  
DOUGLAS WHEATLEY - PENCILER  
STEVE MONROE - INKER  
STARKINGS/COMMICRAFT - LETTERING  
TOM ZUKO - COLORIST  
CHRIS COOPER - EDITOR  
BOBBIE CHASE - EDITOR IN CHIEF

MORBILIS ISN'T A TRUE VAMPIRE. HIS CONDITION ISN'T MYSTICAL -- IT'S DUE TO A SCIENTIFIC ACCIDENT...

BUT THE EFFECTS MAKE HIM JUST ANOTHER BLOODSUCKER, WITH ALL THAT'S GONE DOWN WITH HIM LATELY...

CAN I TRUST HIM?

STILL FULL OF THE SOCIAL GRACES, I SEE. BLACK, ARE YOU HERE ON BUSINESS OR PLEASURE?

THOUGH IT RUINS ME TO SAY SO, I NEED YOUR AVALIIL -- AND YOU'RE GONNA GIVE IT!







THERE IS NO SOUND  
EXCEPT THE LOW  
WHISPER OF MACHINES  
KEEPING BODY AND  
SOUL TOGETHER.

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT  
THOSE CLOSE TO DEATH  
MAY CATCH GLIMPSES OF  
WORLDS BEYOND LIPS.

THOUGH EINER JOHNSON'S  
PSYCHIC ABILITY ALLOWS  
HIM A CLARITY OF VISION  
UNAVAILABLE TO MOST...



HE DOES NOT  
COUNT HIMSELF  
FORTUNATE.



THIS IS AN ASPECT OF IT I'VE NOT ENCOUNTERED BEFORE. WHAT OTHER REVELATIONS AM I TO BEAN WITNESS?



FOR ITTY'S SAKE, HELP US!

PLEASE DON'T DESERT US!

WE'RE IN ZAMBIO, EXILED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

MY BOO - FRANK, DRAKE, HANNIBAL KUNG!

YOU ARE OUR ONLY SALVATION! OUR SOULS ARE IN TORMENT... GIVE US RELEASE, BEFORE THIS NIGHTMARE YOU SEE BECOMES A REALITY...

BEFORE OUR HORROR POISON THE WORLD!

JOHN JOHN?!

UHHHH... GIVE... GIVE...



BLADE,  
YOU'RE TAKING  
A CHANCE. IF  
YOU'VE CAUGHT  
HIM THERE'LL  
BE NO ONE  
TO STOP  
FROST.

HE HAS  
A HEAD  
START AS  
IT IS. DODGE  
HE HAS THE  
AMULET.

NO. I  
COLLAPSE  
STOP HIM.  
I TRIED...

WHO'S  
THAT?

HE'S  
A FRIEND.  
HE HELPED  
ME GET IN  
HERE.

HERE... TAKE  
THIS. IT'S A SHRED  
OF FROST'S JACKET.  
TIE IT TO THE WITCH.  
COMPASS.

THESE  
SHOULD BE  
ENOUGH OF  
FROST'S RESIDUAL  
HECORAINTIC  
ENERGY TO HELP IT  
POINT YOU IN HIS  
DIRECTION.

HE'S  
ALREADY COMPLETED  
THE INITIAL RITE OF  
OBEDIENCE, WITH  
THE AMULET. HE CAN NOW  
CLOSE THE RITUAL, AFTER  
WHICH HE'LL BECOME  
UNSTOPPABLE.

HE  
MUST BE  
DESTITUTE  
AT ALL  
COST.

CONSIDER  
IT DONE.

IT'S NOT THAT EASY. PECHT IS CONSPIRING WITH DEMONS. HE IS ALREADY SACRIFICED ONE HUMAN SOUL, AND PLANS TO DO SO AGAIN.

PLEASE... HERE LIES A CHILD... A YOUNG BOY. HIS PURE, UNIMPECTED SOUL IS A VALUABLE COMMODITY AMONGST DEMONS.

I'M SORRY, BUT WE HAVE TO LEAVE IF WE STAY HERE ANY LONGER, WE'LL AROUSE TOO MUCH SUSPICION.



**A** SLAUGHTERHOUSE,  
SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK...

...A NECESSARY EVIL,  
WHERE ONE FORM OF  
LIFE IS BUTCHERED  
TO FEED ANOTHER...

AN IRONY NOT LOST  
ON THE NOISERATTU  
BEACON FROST!

THIS IS  
THE END OF  
THE LINE FOR  
YOU, MY BOY. OUR  
LITTLE COUNTRY JAUNT  
TERMINATES  
HERE &  
TONIGHT.

PLEASE,  
MASTER, I'M  
SCARED.

GOODD!

BUT  
THIS IS ALL  
MERELY GET-  
DRESSED - AN  
APETITISE FOR  
THE MAIN  
COURSE.

AN  
ABATTOIR...  
WHAT A FITTING  
STAGE FOR  
TONIGHT'S PRO-  
CEDURES.

THE  
PRESENCE  
OF SO MUCH  
DEAD FLESH  
WILL DRAW THE  
CATHARIC ENERGY  
LIKE A MOTH TO  
A FLAME.

MASTER  
I WANT TO  
GO HOME  
NOW, LIKE YOU  
PROMISED. YOU  
SAID TO SEE  
MY DAD.

SO YOU SHALL,  
CHILD, FOR BY  
TONIGHT'S END, YOU'LL  
BE ROASTING WITH  
HER IN WHATEVER  
CORNER OF THE  
PIT HE CALLS  
HOME!

ELSEWHERE...

IT  
DON'T  
SEEM SO LONG  
AGO THAT JOHN  
GAVE ME THIS  
WITCH  
COMPASS.

BACK  
THEN I  
PUNCHED HIM  
FOR ANOTHER  
LITTLE INTO  
THE OCCULT.  
MAN, MAD FIRST  
IMPRESSION  
OR WHAT?

SINCE  
THEN WE'VE  
BEEN THROUGH  
SO MUCH STUFF  
HE'S SHOWN ME  
OPTIONS I'D  
NEVER  
CONSIDERED...

— NOW  
HE'S BEING  
KEPT ALIVE BY  
MACHINES.  
I CAN FEEL THE  
FIRE BURNING  
INSIDE ME, BUT  
IT SERVES NO  
PURPOSE.

I'VE  
GOT TO BE  
LIKE THIS  
BATHARI  
SWORD...

... SURE,  
STEADY,  
PERFECTLY  
BALANCED.

WARRIOR'S  
STRENGTH IS  
IN HIS INNER  
CALM AND  
CONCENTRA-

HEY  
BLADE... IS  
THAT A SWORD  
IN YOUR HAND  
OR ARE YOU  
JUST PLEASED  
TO SEE  
ME?

BAD  
JOKE, BAD  
FARNS, I'M  
ABOUT TO  
GO OUT  
AND FROST-S  
HEART OUT.

SOUNDS  
FUN! CAN I  
WATCH?

NO!

JOHN  
SAID YOULD  
SAY THAT. SO  
I'M COMING  
ANYWAY.

YOU  
SAW JOHN  
AGAIN?

UH-HUH.  
I SNEAKED A  
FEW MINUTES WITH  
HIM AFTER YOU LEFT.  
I DON'T LIKE WHAT  
I'D HEARD ABOUT  
FROST AND THE BOY.  
I WANTED TO  
KNOW MORE.

YOUR FRIEND'S AN  
INCREDIBLE FARM  
BOY. HE KNEW WHAT  
I WAS, BUT  
IT DIDN'T  
FADE HIM.

DESPITE ALL  
THE FARM HE'S IN, HE  
HAS MORE CONCERNED  
ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED  
TO AND -- HOW MY  
LIFE HAS CHANGED!

YEAH, THAT'S  
DOWN, ALL  
RIGHT.

HE TOLD  
ME ALL ABOUT  
WHAT FROST  
INTENDS TO  
DO.

SOMEONE'S  
GOT TO PUT  
THAT CREEP IN  
THE GROUND  
FOR GOOD.

THEN  
I SUPPOSE  
WE'D BETTER  
GET A MOVE  
ON...

...PARTNER.

LET'S  
GO TO  
WORK.

THE AIR IS HEAVY WITH  
THE ELOQUENT ODOR OF  
DEAD MEAT AND INCENSE.

HEAR AND  
HEAR, NEUTRAL, DARK  
AGENT OF CTHULHU!  
THE CONTRACT IS  
HONORED, THE  
RITE BEGINS! ALL  
IS MADE READY  
FOR YOUR  
ARRIVAL.

BEYOND THE CANDLELIGHT  
THE DARKNESS WATERS  
AS THINGS NOT OF THIS  
WORLD PRESS EAGERLY  
FOR ADMITTANCE.

SEE  
THE OFFERING  
I HAVE FOR YOU!  
TENDER FLUSH TO  
TRADE: A SWEET  
SOUL TO  
BARTER!

COME  
TO ME NOW  
SO I MAY  
WALK  
THE PATH  
OF  
GLORY!

YES!  
TAKE HIM,  
GIVE WHAT IS  
RIGHTFULLY  
MINE...

SSSHHH

NO!!







THAT  
WAS AN AWKWARD  
DREAM WHILE IT  
LASTED - QUITE LIKE  
OLD TIMES... BUT  
TIMES PAST  
NEVER THE  
LEGS.

I SEE  
MY RITE OF  
SUMMONING  
HAS BEEN  
ACCEPTEED. THE  
CIRCLE OF GOLD  
LIGHT BURNS  
READY FOR MY  
ILLUMINATING  
GUEST.

I  
SHALL READY  
THE BOY. HIS  
SACRIFICE IS  
ESSENTIAL  
TENEMENT IN  
PAYMENT FOR  
NETARAL'S  
VISIT.

SORRY TO RAIN  
ON YOUR PARADE  
BUCKEE, BUT  
I'VE BEEN BITTEN  
BY WORSE THAN  
A FEW BANDS IN  
A LIFETIME.





AND SUDDENLY, FROST REMEMBERS WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE SITE OF SUMMONING...

...HOW WHATEVER IS TO BE SACRIFICE MUST LIE WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF COOL FLAME.



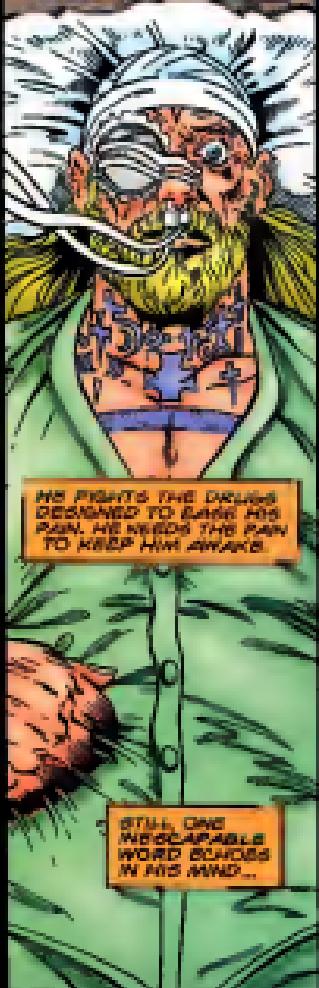




# St. Jude's Hospital

JOHN CARPIS IS AFRAID TO SLEEP...

...AFRAID OF WHAT VISIONS AWAITS HIM BEYOND THE WAKING WORLD.



# LETTER HACKS

CHRIS COOPER - Editor BOBBIE CHASE - Group Editor

c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

All correspondence must include your name and address, although we will gladly withhold that information upon request.

Dear BLADE Team,

Blade is one of the most dynamic characters in the Midnight Sons line! He never fails to let anyone know where he stands, and I like that kind of attitude.

Your first four issues are supreme! I really like Bible John—he's an interesting character. I just have a couple of questions:

1) Why did you take off the Midnight Sons emblem from the cover?

2) Will Blade go after Morbius, the living vampire?

3) Will he team up with other Midnight Sons characters?

Charles Schottfeld

P.O. Box 1453  
Canton, ME 04739

To answer your questions in order, Charles:

1) We removed the Midnight Sons dagger to establish closer ties between the Midnight Sons titles and the rest of the Marvel Universe.

2) As you can see from this issue, there's a little defiance between Blade and Morbius right now.

3) Always a possibility!

Dear Bladetards,

I really enjoyed issue #4, because we get some villains that are not Dracula.

Night Terrors and Steppin' Razor seem to be interesting, but I'm sure of Blade will get to know them much better next issue—along with his katzen! And I'm glad Bible John is not just a background character—he's got great potential!

Changing subjects a bit, what is going on with Julia? First the mysterious phone call last issue, and now someone is following her this issue (who you literally would not want to meet in a dark alley)! Could this be someone actually trying to get a hold of Blade? A somehow returned Frank Drake or Hannibal King, perhaps?

I'll be interested to see how long before Dracula shows up again; issue #50 is getting too much?

I just don't like the fact that he's back. It means that everybody who's died trying to see him destroyed—including Rachel Van Helsing and Quincy Harker—died for nothing.

The point to all of this seems to be that the villains always find a way back to life, while the heroes always find a way to an early grave.

Mike McCullough  
5708 Kennedy Street  
Brentwood, MD 20727

It certainly may seem that the villains have the upper hand over the heroes, Mike, but thankfully, there always seems to be new heroes to take up the cause where their fallen predecessors left off. Blade is now carrying on the crusade begun by Quincy and Rachel, who themselves carried on the war

against vampires once waged by Quincy's father, Jonathan Harker, and Rachel's grandfather, Abraham Van Helsing. As for the heroes always going to an early grave...we can think of several instances of the heroes coming

back to life, most notably Jean Grey, Adam Warlock, and a guy with a big red "B" on his chest.

Dear Guy,

I've got only a few things to say, so I'm going to say them and be done with it. Are you ready? I hope so.

1) The series BLADE: THE VAMPIRE-HUNTER is not turning out the way I expected. It's better I mean, you gave us Blade, who can get away from the supernatural, and especially the vampire arena, and changed him from the gang-ba, over-the-top, obsessed fighter he was into a more and more conservative fighter. And as far as I'm concerned, a better one. Although I did wonder why he would jump into a factory full of thralls and one very nasty vampire all by himself. He still pulled it off, and in spectacular form.

2) I really like Bible John. He's a little odd, but he makes for an interesting character. And he seems sincere in his efforts to help Blade. I would, however, like to read more about his past. The thing that shattered his mind and killed everyone who accompanied him on the expedition—is it still around? Maybe Blade could have a run-in with it, giving John the chance to even the score.

3) The artwork is superb. I can't say enough about it, except that I hope it's not going anywhere. All of you are doing an excellent job. It looks great, and all of you deserve a lot of praise for it.

I've enjoyed the storylines so far with a great amount of enthusiasm, and I am always eager to see the next issue. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for Blade and John.

Before I go, I just want to say that this book is surpassing the NIGHTSTALKERS legacy, which I had doubted could be done. You guys have done good here, and it looks like I'm going to be around for the long haul.

Michael Aaron Payne  
3238 Harris Lane  
Dallas City, TX 75117

And we're glad to have you with us, Michael! Your comments and enthusiasm for this series are very encouraging, and we hope to continue providing you with reading enjoyment for years to come! As for what the future has in store for Blade, all we can say is: it won't necessarily be too rosy!

Chris,

I bought this book believing initially that it was going to be a four-part limited series. I read "Siege of Darkness" and enjoyed it, but I'm not a big fan of the occult or Blade. However, I like this book.

Why?

**IN TWO WEEKS:** *Nightmare*, in our world, battles the usurper of his world—and his beloved love hangs in the balance! Don't miss the conclusion of *NIGHTMARE*, the unprecedented limited series from Ann Nocenti, Joe Bennett, and Mike Witherby!

Well... good pacing of storylines and character development. Every book, especially new ones, must have supporting players to forward the main character and his/her story. It just depends if they are real or simply used to manipulate the book in one direction or another. Julia and Bible John are real.

On top of that, Blade has a

quality (that I've only recently discovered) which is priceless for heroic figures: he's someone you can believe in. Vampires seem to be extremely popular and promise mega-sales for comics in which they appear. But I don't read *BLADE* for them. So if you can keep the vampires on the periphery, I'll keep buying. You know—about 20 to 30 per issue!

Brian Palacios

5416 Dunbar Drive  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

All those things you love about *BLADE*, Brian, are the result of strong writing, and for that we owe a debt of thanks to Ian Edginton, who shepherded this book through its first 8 issues. We're sorry to say that Ian has moved on to other projects...but we're overjoyed to welcome *WEB OF SPIDER-MAN*'s Terry Kavanagh as *BLADE*'s new regular writer, starting next issue! We think you're going to be thrilled and fascinated by the concepts and twists that Terry has in store for Blade!

**NEXT ISSUE:** Blade captures a vampire instead of destroying it—with terrifying implications for the life and soul of the dying Bible John!

